

POLAND: Church Proposal

Archbishop Glemp, in his Easter sermon yesterday, revealed his new initiative for resuming a dialogue between government and society. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] his 10-point program calls for new discussions between the government, the Church, and a broadly based committee representing all of society, including Solidarity. It would negotiate timing for ending martial law, discuss ways to reactivate trade unions and reestablish civil rights, and address economic and social reforms. This document, which has not yet been approved by Church bishops, supports Solidarity but also criticizes it for going too far in some areas. [REDACTED]

Comment: The document is a direct challenge to the regime to break the current political stalemate, but the authorities are not likely to accept it as a basis for negotiation, although they welcome the criticism of Solidarity. Glemp's apparent offer of direct Church involvement in negotiations reverses the position taken by the Church in late February. This change, as well as the criticism of Solidarity, may provoke heated discussion among the bishops and add to the deterioration of Glemp's image. [REDACTED]